

# Working Group Report

Name of Project	<b>South Hams Volunteer Centre</b>
Date of Update	September 2006
Summary of Progress	<p>The new Volunteer Centre for the South Hams opened in June 2006.</p> <p>Intended Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater sense of community involvement across the district, in particular with disadvantage groups;</li> <li>• Volunteers will feel positive about accessing training and / or employment; and will have an improved quality of life, including reduced feeling of isolation;</li> <li>• Volunteers will have access to information / signposting to training;</li> <li>• Organisations working with volunteers will show improved volunteer management and awareness of best practice;</li> <li>• Volunteering in the South Hams will have a higher profile and there will be an increase in joint working between the voluntary and statutory sectors</li> </ul> <p>Key areas of activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach surgeries in each of the market towns to attract potential volunteers</li> <li>• Advertising volunteering opportunities and brokering the relationships with volunteers and the organisations.</li> <li>• Work in partnership with the Devon Association of Volunteer Centres to ensure best practice and to tackle rural issues.</li> <li>• Work with local communities (in conjunction with the CVS) to identify potential activities to boost local community activity.</li> <li>• Provide training for organisations seeking to involve volunteers in their activity.</li> </ul>
Milestone Reached	
Issues for the SHSP to consider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Volunteer Centre can provide advice to statutory agencies to help establish employee volunteering schemes / policies.</li> <li>• The Volunteer Centre has received a significant number of enquiries from Job Centre Plus, on placing unemployed people into volunteering opportunities.</li> </ul>
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To note progress to date;</li> <li>• Recognise the potential contribution the Volunteer Centre may bring to the local economy;</li> <li>• Consider how partners can engage with the project, such as establishing employee volunteering scheme.</li> </ul>